THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Import of Indian mangoes in U.S. & Japan was not permitted citing the presence of fruit flies and stone weevil. Now both Japan & USA have lifted the ban provided the mangoes are given vapour heat treatment (for Japan) or are irradiated (for USA).

(c) and (d) Two vapour heat treatment plants are being set up by Andhra Pradesh at Nuzwid and Tirupati by the AP Industrial Development Corpn. Ltd.

No approval to fresh SEZ applications by BoA

4456. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Approvals (BoA) for SEZs is not going to consider any fresh applications, other than those focusing on conversion of in-principle approval to formal approval in 19 cases;

(b) if so, the reasons for not considering fresh applications;

(c) whether any SEZ pertains to Andhra Pradesh in the list of 19 SEZ applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) for how many SEZs the BoA has granted formal approval so far and how many hectares of land would be required for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. All applications, including applications for conversion from in-principle to formal approvals, duly recommended by the State Government concerned, are considered by the Board of Approval (BoA). The BoA meeting held on 9th May 2007 considered applications for conversion of in-principle approval to formal approval. No such request for conversion was pending from Andhra Pradesh.

(e) After the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 came into effect on 10th February 2006, 237 formal approvals were granted for setting up SEZs of which three have been withdrawn/cancelled. the land involved in the 234 valid formal approvals is about 33,800 hectares.